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Patent Claims

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1. An optical display system for a vehicle, having
  - at least one first display unit (1) and
  - at least one second display unit (2),
  - with information for display being allocated tothe at least one first display unit (1) and/or to the at least one second display unit (2),  
characterized in that
  - it is possible to switch from the at least one first display unit (1) to the at least one second display unit (2), or from the at least one second display unit (2) to the at least one first display unit (1), as a function of a determined current driving situation, in order to display the information.
2. The optical display system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, after switching from the first display unit (1) to the second display unit (2), the corresponding information is masked out on the first display unit (1), and after switching from the second display unit (1) to the first display unit (2), the corresponding information is masked out on the second display unit (2).
3. The optical display system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized by an evaluation and control unit (3), which determines the current driving situation by evaluation of data from at least one vehicle subsystem (4).
4. The optical display system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3,

characterized in that the at least one first display unit (1) is arranged outside the central field of view of the driver.

- 5    5.    The optical display system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4,  
characterized in that the at least one second display unit (1) is arranged within the central field of view of the driver.
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6.    The optical display system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that information from at least one vehicle subsystem (4) is allocated to be displayed on the at least one first display unit (1), in which case it is possible to switch to the at least one second display unit (2) in order to display the information when a first driving situation is determined.
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7.    The optical display system as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the information which can be displayed from the at least one vehicle subsystem (4) comprises a hazard warning, in which case the first driving situation can be determined by the evaluation and control unit (3) when a hazard situation occurs.
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8.    The optical display system as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the at least one vehicle subsystem (4) comprises a navigation system (4.1).
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9.    The optical display system as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the information which can be displayed from the navigation system (4.1) comprises complicated navigation information, in which case the first driving situation can be
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determined by the evaluation and control unit (3) when a complicated navigation maneuver occurs.

- 5 10. The optical display system as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the information which can be displayed from the navigation system (4.1) comprises information for inputting destinations in the navigation system (4.1), in which case the first driving situation can be determined by the  
10 evaluation and control unit (3) during normal driving operation of the vehicle (10).
- 15 11. The optical display system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that information from at least one vehicle subsystem (4) is allocated to be displayed on the at least one first display unit (1), in which case the information when a second driving situation is determined is additionally allocated to the at  
20 least one second display unit (2).
- 25 12. The optical display system as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the second driving situation can be determined by the evaluation and control unit (3) when the vehicle (10) is stationary.
- 30 13. The optical display system as claimed in claim 11 or 12, characterized in that the information from the at least one vehicle subsystem (4) comprises moving images.
- 35 14. The optical display system as claimed in one of claims 11 to 13, characterized in that the vehicle subsystem is a television or video system (4.2), or an interface to the Internet (4.3).
15. The optical display system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that, when

switching between the display units (1, 2), a display type and/or the scope of the displayed information can be varied.

- 5 16. The optical display system as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the display type comprises the size and/or color and/or contrast and/or the representation.